

	Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center Policy Manual		Policy Number	1500
			Original Date	01/28/2011
	Department: Exposure Control Plan		Revised Date	03/01/2016
			Standard Precautions	

Policy:

Standard Precautions provide the first line of defense for health care workers and support personnel against the risks of blood borne pathogens. Standard Precautions will be practiced at all times to reduce the risk of health care workers or support staff contracting a blood borne disease. Since a patient's medical history and physical examination alone cannot reliably identify each patient infected with HIV, HBV, or other blood borne pathogens, Standard Precautions must be consistently used for all activities involving contact with blood, tissue and body fluids or equipment or materials which may have been contaminated by these substances.

At a minimum, the following Standards of Practice are required of all employees in patient areas or with equipment that may have been contaminated with infectious material. These Standard guidelines do not relieve employees of responsibility for knowing and complying with more detailed policies included in this Exposure Control Plan which must be consulted and followed routinely.

Standard of Practice:

1. **Wash hands** after contact with patients and immediately after contact with blood, body fluids, or human tissue occurs.
2. **Wear gloves** when anticipating contact with blood, body fluid, tissues, mucous membranes or contaminated surfaces, or if breaks in the skin are present.
3. **Wash hands** after removing gloves or use hand sanitizer
4. **Wear an impervious gown or apron** if spattering of clothing is likely.
5. **Wear a mask** if there is contact with an infectious disease spread by splatter droplets.
6. **Wear a mask and eye protection** if aerosolization or splattering is likely to occur such as certain surgical procedures, wound irrigation, suctioning, post-mortem examination and bronchoscopy.

7. **Use mouth pieces, resuscitation bags and other ventilation devices** available during emergency resuscitation. These devices will be readily available for use in areas when the need for resuscitation is likely.
8. **Handle sharp objects carefully.**
 - A. Use non-needle connections or needle devices containing built-in safety features that are used for collecting fluids or administering medications or other fluids.
 - B. Dispose of **Sharps** objects in sharps containers. These containers should be emptied when they are $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
 - C. Report immediately all needle stick accidents, exposure of mucous membranes to potentially infectious material or contamination of open wounds with blood or body fluids.
9. **Dispose of all spills** which contain or may contain biological contaminants in accordance with policies for Infectious/Biohazardous waste disposal.